



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

Michael F. Easley
Governor

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GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER COMMISSION HOLDS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS FOR SENIORS

RALEIGH - The North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, housed in the Governor's Office, has received a federal grant totaling \$119,900 to provide emergency preparedness training at senior centers across the state.

"These training sessions are reaching across the state to educate our seniors about disaster preparedness," Gov. Easley said. "Through the Commission's efforts, seniors will have key information to help them be safe and prepared when a disaster strikes."

Seniors are learning the importance of being prepared for a disaster by receiving instruction for creating a family disaster plan, preparing a basic disaster kit and learning the importance of local emergency management offices. Each participant is also provided with a disaster preparedness checklist.

The Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service received the grant from the National Corporation for Community Service. The grant is also being used to create a local volunteer consortium in 12 counties: Columbus, Franklin, Granville, Haywood, McDowell, New Hanover, Person, Randolph, Stokes, Vance, Warren and Wilson. The consortiums consist of leaders from local volunteer, senior, Hispanic/Latino and faith-based organizations.

"North Carolina's senior population can benefit significantly from this preparedness training," said Faye Stone, deputy executive director of the N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. "Our goal is not only to train seniors who participate in the sessions, but encourage them to share what they learn with other seniors, family members and neighbors."

Training sessions are currently scheduled at the following Senior Centers:

- Chatham County Senior Center (Pittsboro) March 12 10:30 a.m.
- Duke Street Senior Center (Durham) March 16 10:45 a.m.
- Granville County Senior Services (Oxford) March 18 11 a.m.
- Yancey County Senior Center (Brunsville) April 4 10:30 a.m.